FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

National Dialogue Conference — The conference in Lausanne will start 8 hours later than scheduled because of the late arrival of Syria's representative, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Beirut radio reported. President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Lausanne on 11 March to preside over the conference, the radio noted. MENA announced earlier that Al-Jumayyil had met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on 10 March before leaving for Europe while Damascus and Voice of Lebanon radios reported a telephone conversation between the Syrian and Lebanese presidents that day. Meanwhile, a Damascus radio commentary on the Lausanne conference stressed that the conferees must adopt a nationalist Lebanese position "in harmony with Syria's security and national interests."

The Lebanese Front's working paper for the conference proposes a federal system in which the central government would be responsible for foreign and defense policy while each province would be administered by a governor, an executive council, and a decisionmaking council, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Phalange Party official Karim Baqraduni earlier told the Paris paper *LIBERATION* that any attempt to deny the reality of "cantons" and centralize power will only lead to a new round of civil war, KUNA reported. However, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri strongly opposed the idea of a confederation of cantons in remarks reported by Damascus radio. Birri also admitted that Amal and the National Salvation Front have not reached a unified stand, although he noted in an interview broadcast by Beirut radio that there is understanding between the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Amal Movement on many issues. The Shi'ite leader condemned recent shelling of Beirut's southern suburb as an attempt to force the opposition to retreat from "certain stands."

Security Situation — As clashes continued in and around the capital over the weekend, Beirut radio described the fighting on 10 March as "fierce and bloody" and cited reports that around 13 people were killed and over 50 were injured, many of the casualties being caused by shelling of the southern suburbs. Earlier, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused gunmen of the "Khomeynite-communist alliance" of heating up the security situation.

In a separate development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Soviet personnel were seen manning PSP vehicles and artillery in the Lebanese mountains. Arab sources cited by the Tel Aviv's *HA'ARETZ* asserted that Soviet intelligence officers have established two bases in Lebanon separately from the Syrians and in cooperation with the Lebanese leftist groups.

Syria

New Government, Vice Presidents -- Presidential decrees issued on 11 March appointed 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rif'at al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashariqah as vice presidents and announced details of Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm's new government, Damascus radio reported. Faruq ash-Shar' takes over Khaddam's post as foreign minister and new ministers of information, higher education, electricity, oil, and construction have been appointed. General Mustafa Talas remains defense minister and also becomes deputy prime minister.

Aliyev Visit — President al-Asad received CPSU Politburo member Geydar Aliyev on 11 March following the latter's arrival in Syria the previous day at the start of a 3-day visit, Damascus radio reported. The talks focused on bilateral cooperation, the international and Middle East situation, and issues of common interest. The Soviet visitor also held two rounds of talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who stated at a banquet in Aliyev's honor that Lebanon's decision to abrogate the agreement with Israel demonstrates the possibility of "foiling the Camp David trend and the treaty concluded between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli enemy," according to the radio. Khaddam called on "our brothers in Egypt" to follow Lebanon's example. As for the forthcoming Lebanese National Dialogue Conference, he said President al-Asad has instructed the Syrian delegation at Lausanne to exert "all efforts" for national accord and the restoration of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. Khaddam expressed appreciation for the "Palestinian nationalist forces" opposed to the policy of "deviation, relinquishment, and violation of the PNC resolutions" as advocated by "some" Palestinian leaders. Turning to the USSR's "great role" in supporting Syria, he said that thanks to Soviet support, Syria now possesses a "defensive power that adds important capabilities" to its moral and material powers.

In reply, Aliyev praised Syria as "the major enemy of imperialism" in the Middle East, the radio reported. In the TASS version of Aliyev's speech, the Soviet official said Syria plays "an important role in countering the American-Israeli plan in the Middle East."

Iran-Iraq War

Military Developments — Iraqi units repulsed a new Iranian offensive in the area east of Basra in an overnight battle and "completely destroyed" attacking Iranian forces, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghad Voice of the Masses radio on 12 March. The Iranians suffered a "large number" of casualties including a number of Iranian Revolution guard commanders, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, "fierce fighting" continued over the weekend in the Majnun region, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing remarks made by the commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps. According to the Iraqi military commander, the Iranian presence in Majnun is "worthless" and the Iraqi forces are "exploiting" this presence in order to inflict the heaviest losses possible on Iranian life and equipment. According to IRNA, however, the Iraqi forces sus-

tained "tens of casualties" in a "futile attempt" to recapture the Majnun oil fields on 11 March. Part of one Iraqi armored division was "destroyed" in the battle, IRNA added. Iraqi counterattacks launched in the southern part of the Majnun region on 10 March had earlier been repulsed by Iranian forces, Tehran radio reported. Iraqi forces were forced to withdraw from their positions after suffering "heavy losses and casualties," the radio added.

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 9 March claimed that more than 2,000 Iraqis had been killed or wounded in counterattacks to recapture the Majnun Islands during the last 3 days. In the wake of this "severe defeat," the Iraqi forces resorted to the use of chemical weapons in several areas of the Majnun region, which resulted in at least 400 Iranian soldiers being injured, Tehran radio and IRNA reported respectively. Commenting on the renewed chemical bombings, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said that such bombings cannot determine the fate of the war "under any circumstances," Tehran radio stated. However, he found it "surprising" that the "so-called anti-imperialist and popular" countries of the East bloc have not even said "one word to condemn" these acts.

Arab Conference — The Arab League General Secretariat sent memorandums to Arab countries informing them that Iraq's call for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers received majority approval, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported citing Arab League sources in Tunis. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati warned Arab countries not to try to stabilize the Baghdad regime because it "is doomed to go," Tehran radio reported on 11 March. The participation of Arab countries in the Baghdad conference will be viewed by Iran as an "unfriendly action" which will be taken into account in "future calculations" by Iran, he added.

GCC Affairs

The GCC has not "newly offered" to mediate between Iran and Iraq, SPA reported on 11 March, citing remarks made by the GCC secretary general at the conclusion of the 10th GCC foreign ministers session in Riyadh. He also denied that the expected 13 March emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad has a mediatory task. It is a "mere conference," he asserted. The acting chairman of the session welcomed Iraq's request to hold such a meeting and added that the GCC states will attend, SPA announced.

Jordan-PLO

King Husayn held talks with PRC President Li Xiannian on 9 March and received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat the following evening, according to Amman radio and television reports. 'Arafat also met with Li Xiannian who told the Palestinian leader that the PRC continues to support the PLO "under your leadership," XINHUA reported. While the Chinese agency said 'Arafat accepted an invitation to visit the PRC in April, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported that 'Arafat promised to visit China at a "suitable" time. As for the PLO leader's talks with King Husayn and other Jordanian officials, 'Arafat subsequently disclosed at an Amman news conference that the two sides had completed discussions on a joint plan of action which is expected to include joint visits on the Arab and international levels, Amman radio reported. He also revealed that the PLO leadership has formed a committee to hold consultations with various Palestinian organizations to determine the date and venue of the planned Palestine National Council session.

Inter-Arab Affairs

ICO General Secretary Habib Chatti informed Egypt on 11 March that it can immediately resume its ICO membership, SPA reported. Moroccan King Hassan II had earlier asked Chatti to take steps to enable Egypt to officially resume its activity inside the ICO now that Egypt's return to the organization is "final," SPA and Rabat radio noted.

In another development concerning Egypt, Arab sources in Beirut cited by KUNA stated that Syria and Egypt have agreed to maintain a "dialogue" following recent contacts that included a "secret visit" to Damascus by Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary 'Usamah al-Baz.

Egypt-Israel

In meetings with visiting Israeli Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat, Egyptian officials stressed the need for a speedy Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, reiterated the need to include Jordan and Palestinian representatives in the peace process, and urged Israel to take steps to broaden the peace process by halting arbitrary measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and by discontinuing its settlement policies, Cairo radio reported.

Libya

Bombings in Britain — The People's Committee of the Bureau for Foreign Liaison has denied any Libyan connection with the bombings in London over the weekend, JANA announced on 11 March. The committee accused the British media of conducting a "deliberate malicious and racist" campaign to cover up the British stance which protects the "stray dogs" that have committed crimes against the Libyan people. The committee affirmed that Libya will not be responsible for incidents or explosions occurring in Britain, JANA added.

French Plane Explosion — A spokesman for the People's Committee of the Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in a statement reported by JANA, denied allegations of Libyan responsibility for the explosion aboard a French plane in Ndjamena on 10 March. The incident simply confirms the deterioration of stability in Chad and the Chadian president's inability to achieve security even within the bounds of the capital, the statement added. According to Paris radio, a group calling itself "Idriss Miskine" claimed responsibility for the attack in an anonymous phone call to REUTER on 11 March. The caller also requested that France and Libya not interfere in the internal affairs of Chad.

Iran

Majlis elections will be held on 15 April, the interior minister announced in a statement reported by IRNA.

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South Asia

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USSR Agrees To Supply Defense Equipment

BK091626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet Union has agreed to supply sophisticated equipment to strengthen India's defense forces. All-India Radio correspondent understands that supplies from the Soviet Union would include equipment with higher strike power for the Army, advanced technology aircraft, and latest fencing systems to increase capabilities of sight, surveillance, and detection of naval ships.

These decisions followed wide-ranging talks the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, had during the last few days of his stay in India. Marshal Ustinov and his delegation are leaving Delhi for Moscow tomorrow.

Our correspondent adds that during the talks between the Soviet delegation led by Marshal Ustinov and the Indian delegation led by the defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, there was common attitude, approach, and perception of the security environment both global and regional.

Our correspondent understands that the Soviet Union has agreed to consider with a greater sense of urgency the equipment plans of the Indian Army. These include increased quantities of equipment with greater sophistication and higher strike power. The Indian and Soviet delegations discussed the need for a suitable air defense system in light of the current and future security perceptions. The Soviet side will make available advanced technology aircraft and consider the Indian request for requisite electronic countermeasure systems. For the Navy, it was decided to fix the ships under construction with the latest fencing systems and to develop in the process of interaction electronic capabilities. This would help in containing developing threats in the Indian Ocean area.

AFP Report

BK091555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP) — The Soviet Union has agreed to supply India with sophisticated new military equipment, including advanced aircraft and the latest surveillance systems, well-informed sources said here today.

The Soviet defense supplies would also include equipment to boost the Indian Army's striking power and systems for the detection and tracking of ships, they said.

Agreements covering the supplies are understood to have been concluded at the final round of discussions between a Soviet delegation led by Defense Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov and an Indian team led by Defence Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman today.

The sources added that a shared approach to both global and regional security problems by the two sides led to the decision to both quicken the pace of Soviet arms supplies to India and increase the sophistication of the equipment provided.

Under the new agreement, Indian naval ships under construction would be fitted with the latest detection and systems and their electronic capabilities would be developed to enable them to contain developing threats in the Indian Ocean area, well-informed sources said.

Marshal Ustinov has said he shared India's concern over the militarisation of Pakistan; and said after arriving here Monday he understood India's wish to strengthen its defence.

The Soviet side appreciated India's need to develop home production of equipment and evaluation systems to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers, and offered extensive help to achieve this, the sources said.

Marshal Ustinov, who headed a 55-member civilian and military delegation, visited a defence equipment factory in Nasik, on the west coast, where the MIG-21 and 23 versions are being built, a T-72 tank factory in Madras, southern India, and the naval shipyard of Visakhapatnam on the southeast coast.

Mr Venkataraman told Parliament Tuesday that India wanted to buy an improved version of the Soviet MIG aircraft, an apparent reference to MIG-29 fighter bombers. He said the improved version of the MIG would be superior to U.S.-made F-16's sold to Pakistan.

Marshal Ustinov, who is due to leave for home tomorrow morning, has had two meetings with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and detailed talks with Mr Venkataraman during his visit. He reviewed Indo-Soviet relations and the international situation during a meeting with Foreign Minister P.V.Narasimha Rao today, sources said here.

A number of agreements were also reached during working meetings between Soviet delegates and Indian officials, well-informed sources said. Details were expected to be announced in Parliament shortly.

Explaining India's defence policy, Mr Venkataraman told Parliament on Tuesday that Mirage 2,000 interceptors might be required for greater agility while the Anglo-French Jaguar, which India already had in service, might be needed for deep penetration.

India has ordered 40 Mirage 2,000 from the French firm Marcel Dassault and the first six are to be delivered this year. The Indian Air Force has about 100 Jaguars and is manufacturing them under licence at the rate of about eight a year. It also has several hundred MIG-21's, MIG-23's and MIG-27's made in the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics workshops.

USSR's Ustinov Comments on Talks, Departs 10 March

BK100754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, has expressed deep satisfaction over his talks with Indian leaders. He told newsmen at Delhi airport this morning on his departure for Moscow that his visit had further increased mutual under-

standing between India and the Soviet Union. Marshal Ustinov was on a 6-day official visit to India during which he had meetings with Indian leaders and went round some military establishments.

Describing Mrs Gandhi as an outstanding prime minister and leader, the Soviet minister said he had a useful exchange of views with her. Marshal Ustinov referred to his visit to some defense production units, combat formations, and the military academy at Dehra Dun and said his meetings with officers and men of the defense forces, though short, was an experience. He found that they are trained through the most modern methods. He said the Indian people can be fully satisfied with their defense forces.

The Soviet minister was seen off at the airport by the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman; the minister of state, Mr K.P. Singh Deo; service chiefs; and top officials. An Army contingent presented Marshal Ustinov a guard of honor before he boarded this special Ilyushin aircraft.

Pakistani Cabinet Reshuffle Linked to Coup Plot

BK110748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] In Pakistan, about 40 Army officers, a former minister, and three civilians are reported to have been arrested for plotting a coup against the military regime recently. PTI, quoting a leading British weekly, the *ECONOMIST*, also says that about 400 officers have been interrogated in this connection. The news agency said the report in the weekly has been confirmed by some prominent exiled Pakistani politicians in Britain. The removal of two generals and three Cabinet ministers in the reshuffle last week is said to be connected with the plot.

AFP: Security Forces in Kashmir Put on Alert

BK111235 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP) — Indian security forces in Kashmir have been put on alert following "unusual and extraordinary" military activities by Pakistani troops along the border of the disputed state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported today.

The commander of Indian soldiers stationed along the cease-fire zone separating Indian and Pakistani Kashmir, Lieutenant General P.N. Hoon, was quoted by PTI in a report from Kashmir's capital, Srinagar, as saying, "Our forces are fully prepared to meet any threat from across the border."

He said reports indicated Pakistani troops were engaged in "unusual and extraordinary" military activities and had started building up cantonments "very close to the border," PTI reported.

The situation called for "extraordinary vigilance on our part," Gen. Hoon said.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the predominantly Moslem Kashmir since 1947. A United Nations negotiated cease-fire in 1949 divided the territory, giving one-third to Pakistan and two-thirds to India.

Referring to intermittent border skirmishes, the general said Pakistani troops had opened fire last week in the Uri sector of northern Kashmir. He said Indian troops had objected to the way the Pakistanis had begun digging pits near the border. "Instead of listening to our point, the Pakistani troops opened fire. In self-defence we also had to retaliate," he said.

Night Curfew Imposed in Bangalore Area

BK110701 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] According to agency reports, night curfew was clamped yesterday in the Shivajinagar area of Bangalore following arson and attack on a police station by a vilent mob. They were protesting against the alleged death of a man in police custody. The police resorted to lathi [baton] and burst tear gas shells to disperse the mob. The situation is now reported to be under control.

Situation 'Peaceful'

BK120312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The situation is peaceful in the Shivajinagar and Bharatinagar areas of Bangalore which witnessed violent incidents in the last 2 days. The city police commissioner told our Bangalore correspondent that 85 policemen, including a deputy commissioner, were injured yesterday. Police resorted to firing when a violent mob, agitating over the death of a man in custody, indulged in damaging public property and halting traffic.

Zia on Elections, Student Union, Nuclear Issues

Interview With WAFAQ

BK091642 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that elections will be held according to plan and it will be kept in mind that only patriotic and pious people will participate in the elections.

In an interview with the editorial board of *WAFAQ*, published today, he said Pakistan came into existence on the basis of Islamic ideology and its survival and prosperity depend on the stability of this ideology. Solutions to all our problems lie in the fact that we sincerely follow Islamic teachings. The president said that in Islam, there is a system of consultation; however, it does not follow the presidential nor any other system of government. He said: Our program is for special attention to be paid to the eligibility of the candidates.

He reaffirmed that the question of elections on a party or nonparty basis and the conditions for elegibility of candidates are under consideration. The conditions for the candidates are important so as to enable the people who are eligible for this in the true sense of the term to take part in the elections. He said that, God forbid, if the ideological basis of Pakistan is hurt, it will affect all Pakistan as well.

The president said the campaign for the reformation of society continues and the country can be made impregnable only by implementing Islamic teachings. He said restrictions on student unions have been imposed after considerable thought. They are aimed at freeing the educational institutions from politics so that antisocial elements are barred from using students for their nefaricus designs.

Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT

PM092107 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 29 Feb 84 p 4

[Undated interview with President Ziaul Haq by Janny Groen: "Pakistan Cannot and Does Not Want To Make an Atom Bomb!"]

[Text] Rawalpindi — "Pakistan does not have the capacity to make its own atom bomb and is not striving to do so. We only want to acquire the nuclear technology for peaceful and not for military ends." Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq reacted with a suave smile to the suggestion that his country, with the help of Dutch nuclear know-how, is in a position to make the notorious Islamic bomb. "It is absolutely untrue," he said.

"A few years ago, the story came into existence in Europe (especially in the Netherlands) and elsewhere in the world that Pakistan had the know-how to manufacture nuclear arms. The Netherlands was said to have helped in this either directly or indirectly (through the Pakistani nuclear spy Abdul Qadir Khan — J.G.). But did the Netherlands Government not hold a far-reaching investigation of the supposed nuclear espionage? And how many secrets was Khan supposed to have stolen? The investigation showed that Khan stole no secrets at all from Urenco. Nevertheless,Khan was accused simply on the basis of a letter which he wrote to a friend in the Netherlands and in which he asked about some details about parts, which possibly, perhaps, could be used in one of the many phases of the nuclear cycle. The matter was brought before the courts with amazing alacrity and the court sentenced Khan to 4-years imprisonment."

It is obvious that President Zia is trying to play down Khan's role in the Pakistani hunt for nuclear technology. However, there are all sorts of indications that Abdul Qadir Khan is less insignificant that the president would like to make out. The new nuclear research center at Kahuta, close to Islamabad, which opened a few weeks ago, bears his name. Almost every Pakistani I talk to has heard his name. He is the national hero whom Pakistan, a poor country in technological respects, has produced to keep pace with the developed nations.

In addition he is one of the best guarded men in Pakistan. He has a secret telephone number, rides in armored automobiles,and anyone daring to approach his apartment in Islamabad is dealt with most heavy-handedly, as the death of a British journalist and the mistreatment of the French ambassador show. The Netherlands Embassy considers that it is "absolutely impossible" to get near the man. Even the embassy has to send the summons from the Amsterdam courts by post to Khan who has appealed to a higher court about the sentence. The only person who could put me in touch with the nuclear expert, people assured me, is President Ziaul Haq.

I met President Zia at the inauguration of a factory for the production of measle vaccines in Islamabad. He immediately made it clear, although he did not say so in as many words, that an interview with Khan was impossible. Not because he is being protected, but he said: "It would be unwise of Khan to make any statements as long as his case is sub judice." However, the president himself was willing to clear up some things about the Khan case. He would like to clear up some of the confusion over the interview which appeared 2 weeks ago in *NAWA-E WAQT*. In the interview, Khan claimed — according to Zia, Khan's statements were "interpreted completely incorrectly" — that Pakistan can enrich uranium and that "scientists would not disappoint the nation if the president of Pakistan found himself in a dire emergency and gave the team of scientists an extraordinary task." A clear hint that Pakistan could make its own atom bomb.

The president, whose smallness is striking, received me at his residence in Rawalpindi where half an hour later he was to give a state banquet to mark the visit of Saudi Arabia's Prince Talal bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud. We talked in the official reception room, which is full of gifts (porcelain horses, Japanese dolls, Chinese ginger jars, vases, medals) and photographs which show the president with a selection of international leaders: former Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former French President Giscard d'Estaing, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, and the pope.

President Zia refused to give a direct answer to the question, asked several times in various forms, of whether Pakistan now does or does not have at its disposal the know-how to make its

own bomb: *THE WASHINGTON POST* recently published an extensive analysis of its estimate of Pakistani nuclear capacity. It reached the conclusion that on the level of nuclear technology Pakistan has not advanced far enough to be in a position to use its own people to manufacture an atom bomb. But that is their version. I say that we have no desire at all to make such a bomb. However, we are striving to acquire the nuclear technology which would puts us in a position to be able to run nuclear power stations."

Question: Can a poor country like Pakistan allow itself to sink so much energy and money into nuclear research?

Answer: We have not really spent so much money on it. It does not cost very much at all. The expansion of the infrastructure, better health care, education, remain priorities. We only have a modest nuclear research center that cannot be compared with the multinational Urenco project in the Netherlands."

Question: If Pakistan is only striving toward peaceful nuclear ends, why is the country not among the signatories of the nonproliferation treaty?

Answer: Signing the nonproliferation treaty would mean no longer having access to nuclear technology. However, Pakistan has spoken out in various ways and on various occasions,calling for a halt to the proliferation of nuclear activities. In addition, Pakistan is an advocate of the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region.

Question: A strategic region which is not free from the violence of war: the Iran-Iraq war: You have offered to mediate?

Answer: Pakistan as a member of the Islamic Peace Committee has indeed made a new attempt to find a solution to the problem of the two Muslim brothers who are involved in a war the results of which they will both have to live with for a very long time. Unfortunately, the war is continuing to escalate further. I am afraid that we can only pray in the hope that our Islamic brothers will return to their senses.

Question: In Pakistan itself, elections will be held this year. Do you think that everything will go according to plan?

Answer: Pakistan is involved in a whole process of elections divided into four phases. The first phase, local elections, we completed last year. Between now and March 1985, the three other steps must be taken: provincial and national elections and elections to the Senate, but not necessarily in that order.

Question: Free elections; does that mean the lifting of the ban on trade union activities?

Answer: Trade unions are not banned in Pakistan. They are functioning normally and effectively. The only limitation which we have imposed on them is that they are not allowed to strike.

Question: But student unions were banned a few weeks ago?

Answer: The student unions had become too involved in national politics. They had become little more than an appendage to the most prominent political forces in our country. We want to keep our educational institutions as pure as possible and create a healthy climate for learning. The ban simply means that they may no longer concern themselves with politics. We have offered them a healthy alternative — the student councils to which they can elect their own representatives.

Question: Will you allow all parties and persons to take part in the elections, including Mrs Bhutto and the currently banned Pakistan People's Party?

Answer: We exclude no one. Also I do not decide who is allowed to take part. An independent electoral commission will be set up to fix the criteria and to decide which parties may or may not take part.

Question: Are you yourself also a candidate?

Answer: No, I will not take part in the elections. Only if there are fundamental changes in Pakistan in the near future. I have said that if those people who, according to the Constitution, are responsible for the election of the president take the view that they could not manage without me then I might perhaps consider accepting their offer. But I also think that as far as I am aware there is no one in the world who is irreplaceable.

Question: Thus you will soon resign as president. What would you do?

With an expansive gesture Zia pointed toward the windows: "Look, here behind my house there is a fine golf course. I am a great lover of golf and I like reading. Consequently, I would not be bored."

Zia: Nuclear Arms Race Against Islam Tenet

BK101115 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that nuclear arms race, with it protential for destruction of life on a massive scale, is wholly contrary to the Islamic spirit of humanity. In a message to the seminar on nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament through Muslim perspective, which began in Karachi this morning, he said as a state firmly committed to the Islamic values and tradition, Pakistan has consistently supported all international efforts to limit and control strategic nuclear weapons and to promote the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The president said Islam is a religion of peace and respect for the sanctity of life, (?which) is a cardinal Islamic principle.

Seminar Supports Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

BK110728 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] A seminar on the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament from the Islamic perspective, which concluded in Karachi yesterday, has adopted a number of resolutions calling for among

other things the acquisition of nuclear technology for peaceful and constructive purposes. In another resolution, it urged the Muslim states to pool their resources for acquiring nuclear technology in particular and other technology in general for furthering their socioeconomic development. It called for freezing all forms of nuclear weapons and gradual dismantling of the stockpile and making peaceful uses from recovered nuclear material.

In another resolution, the seminar says Islam abhors indiscriminate killing and destruction. However, it urges Muslims to pursue the acquisition and utilization of the knowledge for the welfare of humanity. In another resolution, the seminar urges all Muslim organizations to cooperate with one other to save the world from the nuclear arms race and nuclear annihilation. The seminar also supported the proposal of declaring South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa as nuclear weapon free zones as expressed in various resolutions of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The seminar says the threat of war cannot be eliminated unless social, political, and economic injustices are removed and a new international economic order established under which all people in the world receive justice and feel secure.

New Sind, Baluchistan Governors Named

BK120854 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] A press note issued from the chief martial law administrator's secretariat in Rawalpindi today says Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan has been appointed as governor of Sind and Lieutenant General Sardar Farooq Shaukat Khan Lodi as governor of Baluchistan. Lt Gen Jahandad Khan and Lt Gen Sardar S. F. Lodi are at present serving as corps commanders. Lt Gen Jahandad Khan will take charge of his office from Lieutenant General S. M. Abbasi from 30 March. Lt Gen Abbasi is being inducted into the Federal Cabinet. Lt Gen S. F. Lodi will assume charge of his new office with effect from 22 March. He will replace Lieutenant General Rahimuddin Khan who has been promoted to the post of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman.

Wali Khan Warns of Iranian, Afghan-Style Revolts

BK111435 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Wali Bagh, North Western Pakistan, March 11 (AFP) — Pakistan is moving towards an Iranian or Afghan-style revolution because the people have lost hope of ending the u.s.-backed military regime by legal means, an influential veteran politician has warned.

Wali Khan, 63, who for many years was nearly as popular as former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, spoke to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here yesterday after being released from six months under house arrest.

He said the people of Baluchistan, Sind and the North West Frontier — small provinces in comparison with the dominant Punjab — were beginning to turn to neighbours: India, Iran, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union for help to overthrow the government.

This would lead directly to the break-up of Pakistan and U.S. support for General Zia would change nothing, he (?added).

"The constant support of the United States for successive military regimes in Pakistan is the main reason for the failure of democracy in my country," Mr Wali Khan said.

On Afghanistan, he said that last June, the Pakistan Government was about to sign an agreement with the pro-Soviet Afghan government in Kabul but "at the last moment" it backed down after the United States "threatened" to immediately halt all economic and military aid.

U.S. Intervention in Persian Gulf Viewed

LD101257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1228 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Successive victories achieved by Islamic combatants during Wal-Fajr V and VI and Khaybar over the recent weeks have raised the possibility that America, to make up for its defeats in Lebanon and the disgraceful withdrawal of its Marines from that country, may be preparing itself for a more encompassing crisis in the Persian Gulf.

The Soviet official news agency recently accused America of endangering international security and peace through its measures in the Persian Gulf. Later, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger said in a press conference: Soviet accusations are rather ludicrious as it has its own vessels in the region. He added: The objective of the West's policy is, in fact, to guarantee navigation in the Persian Gulf waters, should there be a blockade.

To clarify the dimensions of a possible U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf, it is necessary to review the following points: First, Reagan, having learned new lessons from the U.S. military intervention in Grenada, will not take any seemingly necessary measures in the Persian Gulf on his own. To embark on such a measure, he would probably seek NATO's help. However, despite the fact that the Persian Gulf is threatened with a new crisis by U.S. imperialism, a probable intervention by America and, subsequently, the stopping of oil exports would, in fact, be detrimental to America and the Western countries. Should Iran blockade the Strait of Hormoz, then there will be a 17-25 percent reduction in crude oil supply to the Western world. Moreover, the price of crude oil would rise from its current rate of $29 to around $75 per barrel. Consequently, assuming that the Strait of Hormoz remained closed for 3 months, then the daily shipping — 7.49 million barrels of crude oil and oil products, or almost 17 percent of world requirements — would be stopped from the Persian Gulf. Also, should this happen, other oil-producing countries can only increase their daily oil production by 3.6 million barrels.

Britain, being an oil-producing country, in order to become self-sufficient in oil, must exploit between 60 and 90 oi lfields in the North Sea by the end of the present century. So far, about 30 billion pounds have been invested. To exploit other smaller oil fields, the cost would be around 450 billion pounds. Therefore, it would be unable to meet the demands of world markets. Then there was the question of continuous snow and rain this winter in most European countries, particularly America [as heard], as well as severe cold weather, which increased the demand for oil in an unanticipated quantity. This left a considerable impact on Western countries' demand for Persian Gulf oil. This is at a time when U.S. oil reserves can meet demands for only 45 days. Consequently, according to a great many oil experts, any stoppage of Persian Gulf oil would, at least, postpone any economic recovery in the West for 1 year. Meanwhile, during this same period, the popular forces as well as the deprived peoples throughout the world would attack all U.S. political and economic interests, both inside and outside America.

As for NATO's possible intervention to keep the Strait of Hormoz open, it stems from the fact that, to avoid being accused of unjustifiable actions, Reagan would drag his allies to such a precipice. However, the fact is that, considering the existing differences among the member countries, any practical involvement by NATO in the Persian Gulf seems remote.

At any rate, although the remarks made by the U.S. secretary of defense with regard to keeping the Strait of Hormoz open by any means emphasizes the point that America is in the process of creating a crisis in the Persian Gulf, what is more likely to happen is that America intends to gain more military superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Pact in the Indian Ocean.

Another point which ought to be mentioned is the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections. In the light of this fact, any intervention by America in the Persian Gulf would bring about considerable difficulties for Reagan. Only one example in this respect should suffice. The central council of U.S. trade unions, in a statement, announced that U.S. forces must not be sent to any point in the world unless there is a specific mission which could be understood and supported by the forces and the American people.

In any case, America must bear in mind that its intervention in the region will serve no purpose other than the destruction of its interests and that, without doubt, it would be the precursor of the inevitable death of the ruling clique in the White House.

Velayati Messages on Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

Islamic Conference Organization

LD101737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Following the inhumane action of the Iraqi regime in using chemical weapons against the combatants of Islam, our country's Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayate sent a message to Mr Habib Chatti, secretary general of the ICO. The text of the message is:

In His exalted name. As you are aware, after its failure to achieve anything in the course of its previous actions against our country's civilian areas and cities, the Iraqi regime this time has resorted to chemical weapons against the warriors of the Islamic Republic and has added another black chapter to its book "Three and a Half Years of Crimes."

The use of such weapons by the Iraqi regime, weapons which have been banned in accordance with all international agreements and regulations, is so clear and undeniable that distressed international circles and world public opinion are reacting to these crimes. Some examples of this global reaction to the crimes of the Iraqi regime are the UN condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and condemnation by the International Red Cross Committee and several countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, justifiably, expected the ICO to act on this crime before other organizations and international

circles, but unfortunately so far this organization, which considers itself a supporter of Muslims, has failed to show any reaction and it is feared that such silence and indifference will further encourage the Iraqi regime to continue similar crimes. At this point, while referring to the grave duties of the ICO concerning this terrible crime, we expect this organization to end its silence and, by sending a delegation to visit the victims of the Iraqi regime's chemical weapons attacks, prove its real neutrality and commitment to the Islamic and humane principles and topublic opinion of the Islamic world.

Nonaligned Movement

LD102058 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — In a message to the head of the foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement, Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati today called on the Non-aligned Movement to delegate a mission to Tehran in order to find out facts about Iraqi employment of chemical weapons against the Iranian soldiers. The following are excerpts from the text of Dr. Velayati's message to the head of the foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement.

"In the name of the most high.

"Your Excellency Mr. Rao, foreign minister of India.

"As you are aware, the Iraqi regime has used chemical weapons in her war with Iran in a blatant disregard of all humane principles and of international covenants and especially in violation of the 1925-Geneva protocol. The Iraqi regime used chemical weapons against Iran during her encounter with the Islamic forces in the Khaybar operations inflicting casualties upon Iranian troops. Immediately after that the Islamic Republic notified international organizations of Iraq's use of chemical weapons. Iran's President Khamene'i sent a cable to the head of the movement. Later the world public opinion and certain international forums showed reaction to the issue. The International Red Cross commission confirmed Iraq's use of chemical weapons, and the secretary general of the United Nations, too, has decided to dispatch a delegation to Iran, while certain countries have denounced Iraq for its employment of chemical weapons....

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Non-aligned Movement to delegate a fact-finding team to Iran in order to witness personally the victims of chemical weapons as used by the Iraqis against the Iranian soldiers, so that the peoples in the non-aligned member countries may better learn of the ignominous crime against humanistic principles by the Baghdad government."

Musavi Notes No Comment From East on Chemical Use

LD111447 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Cabinet held a session this morning chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The meeting discussed current issues of the country, news of the war, and political events of the region. At the end of this meeting, in an interview with our correspondent, the prime minister discussed the issues raised during today's session of the Cabinet. We draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording; correspondent] Mr Musavi, would you please tell us what were the main issues reviewed in today's session and what are the latest reports from the battlefronts of the war of truth against falsehood?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Reports of the war were discussed at this session and world reactions to the exposure of chemical bombing were reviewed. Fortunately, these issues have exposed the nature of Saddam's regime more than ever in the world. Of course, there is plenty to say about the chemical bombing at the moment, but the important point which should be emphasized in connection with our internal issues is that such bombings cannot determine the fate of the war under any circumstances. However, in order to expose Saddam's regime and its disrespect for all international rules and regulations, it is worth raising this issue worldwide. We have always faced the barbaric and wicked acts of Saddam's regime and we have not been able to raise them in the world — our voice did not reach any ear. But in this connection, the people of the world have had some memories and there are historical records on this issue. Therefore, through the efforts of the Health and Foreign Ministries and other state organs, the true face of Saddam's regime has been widely exposed.

Most of the international organs and even arrogant governments have been forced to condemn the chemical bombings because they fear public opinion among their nations. What is surprising to us is this: the so-called the anti-imperialist and popular countries of the Eastern bloc have not even said one word to condemn this issue. This is very interesting to us and makes us suspicious that perhaps there are other issues involved and this can be counted as deep support by these countries for Saddam's regime. Well, you know that Saddam's regime is not supported by one superpower alone; the East and West have joined hands to support this regime. [end recording]

Velayati Meets Khamene'i Before Algiers Visit

LD102052 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 10. IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met and conferred with President 'Ali Khamene'i here today on the eve of his scheduled visit to Algiers Sunday. His visit is in response to an invitation by his Algerian counterpart, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi who paid an official visit to Iran last year. During his 3-day visit, Dr Velayati is to review Iran-Algeria relations with Algerian officials and will exchange opinion on regional and international issues.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD111143 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation from the ministry left Tehran for Algeria this morning.

During the visit which is taking place at the invitation of the Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Iranian foreign minister will hold talks with Algerian officials on expansion of mutual relations. Afterwards Velayati will visit Romania on the invitation of that country's foreign minister.

Prior to his departure Velayati told IRNA that his visits to Algeria and Romania were taking place in response to last year's visit to Iran of these countries foreign ministers. Talks with officials of these countries would centre on issues of mutual interests, he added.

As for the Iran-Algeria relations, he said that in post-revolutionary period good relations have been established and such visits helped the ties develop further. Our intention he continued, is to further consolidate relations as well as endeavor to advance common goals of Muslims.

On the relations with Romania he said Iran had good economic industrial and agricultural relations and hoped that in future such ties would be expanded further for the benefit of the two nations.

On the upcoming conference of the Arab countries foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Baghdad, Velayati warned Arab countries not to rely on Baghdad regime because it was doomed. "Participation of some of the Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad conference, is an unfriendly move in our opinion, and will be taken into consideration in our future calculations."

He further stressed "It was not beneficial for them to come to help a government which will definitely fall."

On attempts of some reactionary Arab leaders to add legitimacy to Camp David Accord, he said that it was a disgraceful agreement, a treachery of Anwar as-Sadat against Muslims and the Islamic world. "Anyone who helped strengthen the accord was surely promoting this treachery and Arabs and Muslims will never forgive such a sin."

Velayati said that those who were helping to further expand this accord, in the opinion of the Arab nation at large and the Muslims were considered as dependent elements. Furthermore, he continued these elements had no popular support. Such efforts were made to cover up the U.S.'s humiliating defeat in Lebanon. However, like the previous attempt of the former and present Egyptian Government, these too would fail, he added.

On propaganda of the U.S. and some countries of the region that blocking of the Hormuz Strait would hinder world oil export, he said that Iran has never claimed that closing of the strait would be beneficial for the nations of the region. He further pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran more than any other country insisted on keeping the strait open and providing security of the strait and the Persian Gulf.

However, he added in an escalated war between Iran and Iraq, if Iraq and its supporters planned to deprive Iran of its vital interests, there would be no reason that we would allow others to keep their vital interests.

Speaking further on the issue he said that a number of countries with vital interests in the Persian Gulf and Hormuz Strait were aiding Iraq. In the absence of such aids, he added, the Iraqi government would not have survived more than few months.

On attempts of superpowers and some countries of the region which have been supporting Iraq politically and militarily, he said that Iran would never close the Strait of Hormuz preemptively, considering it as a move detrimental to her own interests.

However, if in the event extensive clashes occurred, and if severe and irrepairable damages were caused to Iran's interests, so that it could no longer export oil, then there would be no reason why others remained immune of such damages.

Commenting on foreign press reports which are implying that Velayati's trip to Algeria was for the purpose of discussing that country's mediation in the Iraqi imposed war, he said that in light of interest of world dominating powers to maintain Saddam's regime, they interpreted any move for their own interest and for saving Saddam.

"Any mediation would be to the advantage of Saddam's regime and we firmly announce that no mediation will be accepted by us and the case of Iran and Iraq had passed the mediation stage," he added.

Velayati further reiterated taht the Iraqi Government did not believe in anything and did not feel obligated to execute any agreement or accord, unless it was forced to. At least, he continued, this has been the Iraqi regime's conduct vis-a-vis Iran.

Further on the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, he said that it was run by a man who did not believe in any humanitarian and Islamic principle. For instance, prior to imposing the war on Iran, it unilaterally abrogated the 1975 Algiers Accord. Afterwards, whatever it has done has been in violation of international responsibilities of governments as well and humanitarian principles, he stressed.

Therefore, it was unwise and irrational to allow such a regime to regain its strength, he added. For this reason, the fate of the war would be decided by the Islamic combatants.

The Iranian foreign affairs minister was seen off at the airport by charges d'affaires of Algeria and Romania, as well as the ministry's officials.

Comments on Baghdad Conference

LD111306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Velayati today left for Algeria and Romania at the head of a delegation. Our correspondent interviewed the foreign minister on this visit. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording; question] A conference of Arab foreign ministers is apparently supposed to be held in Baghdad. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Velayati] We warn Arab countries not to try to stabilize this falling regime, because this regime is doomed to go. Any bilateral or multilateral contacts by Arab countries with Saddam's regime will certainly not be hidden from us. The participation of ministers from some Arab countries in this Baghdad conference, from our point of view, is certainly an unfriendly action and will be taken into account in our future calculations. This is a matter, which, with the political help of [passage indistinct] whose overthrow is certain. [end recording]

Commentary Views Expected Arab Conference
GF111140 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Saddam's regime is exerting feverish efforts to convene the conference of the Arab foreign ministers. The meeting is intended to be held in Baghdad on 13 March. The conference is expected to fail even if it is held because holding it is a problem in itself. No more than eight Arab states have thus far agreed to attend, whereas the majority of the Arab states have not made any tangible response to the Iraqi request. Even those countries which have decided to attend the conference are not that politically significant or influential. They are considered to be second and third rate countries in terms of importance.

Informed sources affirm that the failure of the conference will be considered a political blow to Saddam's regime parallel to the military blow it has received from the valiant Islamic forces. Thus, extensive efforts have been made by all the [word indistinct] parties. Reports indicate that the majority of Arab countries have not received Iraq's appeal with much enthusiasm because they don't in any way sympathize with this aggressive regime which has blackened the chapters of history with its ugly crimes, which has launched war against the Islamic Republic and which is committing the ugliest types of crimes against the Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq. Add to this the fact that five countries are hesitant about such a plan, which will obscure the events taking place in the arena of the Islamic-Zionist conflict.

Arguments are taking place in Arab circles on whether Baghdad's regime deserves to have a conference, attended by Arab foreign ministers, held for it. This regime, in the wake of all these crimes and acts of treachery, has become a burned out card in the markets of [word indistinct]. No one any longer has the enthusiasm to [word indistinct] on it after it has become a yellowed, worn-out card tossed about by waves.

It is not only military defeat that these rulers have harvested; they have also added political, economic, and moral failure to their account.

The Islamic Republic has proven, especially recently, that it is the only power in the region capable of confronting any aggression no matter what its color, form, or source and that it will not let the aggressors get away without severe punishment. This firm stand, which is based on truth and logic, is reflected in the horizon of international politics, particularly in the policies pursued by the countries and regimes of the Islamic world, which find themselves face to face with a lofty power that daily is becoming increasingly more brilliant. They have also found that it is not in their interests to show enmity toward this power, which is calling for good and righteousness and which is working to raise up the Islamic nation and rescue it from the grip of the colonizers and oppressors.

Hence, it is only commonsense for the Arab countries to hesitate a hundred times before coming to Baghdad and to hesitate a thousand times before adopting any decisions hostile to the Islamic Republic.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday Sermon on Gulf War
LD091446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpts] After expressing his condolences on the death anniversary of Her Holiness Siddaqah Kubra Fatimah az-Zahra [prophet's daughter], peace be upon her, in the second sermon of Friday prayers, held today at Tehran University, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned the issues of the day and referred to the war as the most important issue of the day in the country.

Continuing the sermon, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council referred to the present concentration of the forces of Islam on the frontlines: At the present juncture, we have reached Iraqi borders. At some points, we have gone beyond them. If at this juncture we accept what those who claim to be mediators say — that Saddam should remain and give some compensation for the damage — it would be very naive to think that with the Iraqi Ba'th Party still remaining, the region would be calm. Should it remain, this party — which has caused so much destruction, massacre, martyrdom, and injury — will justify itself to the Iraqi people and its supporters will justify all their support. As a result, hostility between Iran and Iraq will intensify day by day and the road to peace between the two nations will be closed. Saddam's remaining would mean that the cause for dispute between Iraq and Iran would remain, that is, we would have to be careful all the time, spend all our income on purchasing weapons, keep our forces prepared and in the trenches instead of using them to construct the country, and be blackmailed by international centers to keep their attention. In that case, the Islamic Republic would never be able to come round and to start construction. This would also be the case for the Iraqi people.

Emphasizing the fact that in our opinion the only way open to the Iranian and Iraqi nations is the departure of the Iraqi Ba'th Party from the scene, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: We do not trust the emphasis placed by the Kremlin, the White House, and the agents of world arrogance on an end to this war. They do not want peace and they lie; they want this situation to continue. Ninety-five percent of the mediators also lie.

Noting the change in the war situation at present, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: [Begin recording] The war situation has changed. The enemy has become much more helpless. At present, wherever we take a step,

we cause a new problem for Iraq. The Iraqi nation, Army, and non-Ba'thist politicians should know that there is no other way to save themselves and calm their country than to exclude Saddam and form an Iraqi and popular regime from among themselves. If they ask us for help in doing this, we will help them. If they choose this course, the Islamic Republic with its strong will will stand next to them. Nobody will be able to carry out aggression against you. [shouts,chanting of slogans]

Our only intervention in the method of victory in Iraq is that if others stretch their hands and try to rule on behalf of the Iraqi nation, we will break their hands and will not allow them to come forward. Neither Marxists nor Westerners nor the liars who talk in the name of the Arab nation can come forward. If the Iraqi nation chooses a way, we will be with them and we will put at their disposal the 50,000 POW's we have trained here to support them and save the Iraqi nation. If today you hear that we have to capture your Majnun Islands, it is to overthrow Saddam.

If you overthrow Saddam, the Islamic Republic will be prepared to give up many things and to ignore many of its rights. But if Saddam remains safe and stays on the field, the mediators and the Iraqi people should know that we will be forced to continue this policy and exert pressure on Saddam somewhere every day: Today it is the Majnun Island. It could be some road tomorrow and the day after somewhere else. That is the case throughout the fronts now, from Piranshah to Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, Marivan, Qasr-e Shirin, Dehloran, Changuleh, Chilat, Chazzabeh, or Al-Faw? Today we put the same weight on Saddam's body, where it afflicts him. This situation will continue.

Our nation, our beloved youths on the fronts, and our combative brothers should pay attention to the fact that it is now time to exert pressure. The pressure is not aimed at conquering a country. It is not invading territory with the purpose of usurping it; it is aimed at squeezing Saddam's throat and the Iraqi Ba'th Party's wrist, in order to rid the Iraqi nation of their evil. We must continue this job.

Combative brothers, people behind the fronts, families who have offered martyrs, beloved war disabled: Anywhere we stop, the past situation will continue. We have no way to stop, and the region has no way to stop either. We have announced to southern countries many times that in spite of their oppression against us and participation in the war, we are prepared to forgive them for the sake of the region's security. If this war attains anything, they can live with security under the banner of Islamic justice, which they should fly over their heads.

The radios of Israel and England have been making noise since last night. They have become Muslims, like when Carter used to tell us about Islamic laws. They say they want to carry out a postmortem. Two of our boys, who we sent there as patients, have been martyred. Their bodies are still there. There has been talk of carrying out postmortems to clarify the matter completely. They have raised the issue that autopsy is forbidden in Iran, that Islam does not allow a postmortem to be carried out. This is said by Israel's and England's radios, and they announce that since the imam does not allow it, they are not going to carry out a postmortem. You see how mischievous these knaves are! They do not want the postmortem to be carried out. They do not want to be disgraced and wish to say that Islam is so rigid and backward that it cannot resolve such an important issue. We asked the imam. The imam graciously said: They have been talking nonsense. First, if it is to prove a crime, postmortem is permitted. Second, if it is carried out for the purpose of enhancing science and saving people from germs — which is useful for people — it is permitted. This is the imam's explicit decree. But, well, Israel radio is more pious than us! It should observe these things and should not allow postmortem! People who distort and cover up truth and act like this are so unreasonable and unfair. [end recording]

Joint Operations Center Communique No 19

LD091725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Communique No 19 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Islamic Republic Armed Forces]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The self-sacrificing and brave Islamic forces who have demonstrated the superiority of faith over blasphemy through their self-sacrifice, endeavors, and resistance continue their relentless battle against global arrogance and its bloodthirsty agents. However, the puppet regime ruling over Baghdad — having become desperate and despondent in confronting the liberation forces of the Islamic Army, enjoying the unreserved support of the Eastern and Western criminal superpowers, facing the deathly silence of the so-called international organizations supposedly supporting human rights — whose credibility has been totally disgraced among the deprived nations of the world, continues its crimes.

In the wake of the severe defeat suffered by the Zionist Iraqi forces in their attempts to recapture Majnun Islands; the obvious desperation and despondency of the enemy in confronting the faithful and brave Iranian combatants who repulsed the enemy's heavy counterattacks, killing and wounding more than 2,000 of his forces during the last 3 days; and more heavy blows against the enemy today, the enemy has given up the idea of carrying out any form of military operation. He has resorted to the use of chemical weapons in several areas of the Majnun Islands. Immediate precautionary measures were taken by Islamic combatants. However, dozens of our troops received injuries and were taken to treatment centers.

Relying on divine blessing and help, the Islamic combatants are determined to deal their devastating blows to the rotten and enfeebled regime ruling over Iraq. They are determined to continue their war against the infidel forces of arrogance until their objectives are achieved.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic Armed Forces

IRNA Reports Iraqi Chemical Warfare on Majnun Islands

LD191792 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Ahvaz, March, 10, IRNA — The medical supervisor of the special clinic for the victims of Iraqi chemical bombings here said today that during Friday's Iraqi attacks on the Islamic forces in the Majnun Islands the enemy used blistering as well as asphyxiating gas bombs.

More than 400 combatants were contaminated by the latest Iraqi chemical bombing and some were martyred.

However, the Iraqi chemical attacks have not changed the condition of the battlefronts and the Islamic forces continue to exercise full control over strategic Majnun Islands.

Gholamreza Karimi, one of the victims of the chemical attack, told IRNA at the clinic here that around 5 pm (local time) Friday, six Iraqi planes attacked the positions of the Islamic forces in the Majnun Islands and fired at least nine rockets that filled the air with white smoke upon explosion on the ground.

Karimi added that at the same time a light Iraqi aircraft released poisonous liquid on the waters of the Hawr al-Huwayzah marsh surrounding the islands, killing a large number of fish that surfaced on the marsh.

Another victim, Mohammad Javad Attaie, said the Iraqi planes attacked their positions between 5 pm and 5:30 pm (local time) firing several rockets. Soon after the rockets exploded poisonous gas filled the area causing breathing difficulties as well as eye and nose irritation.

Meanwhile another poisoned combatant said the combatants in the frontlines were equipped with protective gear against chemical poisoning but those who were contiminated were behind the fronts.

IRNA correspondent adds that the condition of most of the poisoned combatants appears to be satisfactory. Dr. Foroutan, the chief medical supervisor of the clinic, said necessary preparations had been made available to deal with such victims.

He said better equipment and experience gained from previous Iraqi chemical victims had decreased the number of martyrs and except for a very few, all other combatants were recovering.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,660

LD091835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,660 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the combatants of Islam continued their struggle to annihilate the aggressive Ba'thist forces of Iraq by opening heavy artillery, Katyusha, and mortar fire on enemy artillery and other weapons emplacements, supply routes, and motorized columns. The Iraqi forces suffered heavy and effective blows on every front and sector of the imposed war. On the Piranshah and Sar Dasht fronts, defensive positions of the Saddamist forces were smashed and over 40 Ba'thist aggressors were either killed or wounded. In the Marivan operational sector, the fire of the Iraqi forces was silenced and their engineering activities and movements were halted.

Our warriors on the western fronts, while returning the fire of the Saddamist forces, dispatched forces and patrols to penetrate enemy defensive regions. Our forces inflicted some losses and casualties on the Saddamists during their reconnaissance operations. The victorious forces of Islam on the southern fronts also continued to further consolidate their defensive positions, repulsing Iraqi forces' moves and patrol operations and pounding infantry positions and tank and artillery emplacements of the Saddamists. Thanks to the light and heavy weapons fire of the forces of Islam, some of the front line positions of the Iraqi forces were set ablaze deep inside the southern sector. Enemy fire was silenced and their movements checked.

The brave Gendarmerie warriors and other combatants of Islam on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts returned enemy fire and pounded the enemy units and positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, halting their engineering activities and destroying several of their infantry positions, machine gun and mortar emplacements, two loaders, and a fuel tank. The artillery fire of our forces also set ablaze and destroyed some installations of the Iraqi forces in the Al-Faw region.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr came under intense enemy long-range artillery fire yesterday; 40 houses and shops and some installations in Abadan and several houses in Khorramshahr were either damaged or destroyed.

Communique No 1,661

LD101727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,661 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, clashes and exchanges of fire continued in the front lines of the border fronts in the northwestern region and our heroic fighters continued to defend their positions and to return the shooting from enemy units with crushing fire. The exchange of fire was more intense in the Panjwin region and as a result of our forces' superior firepower the enemy's heavy weapons were silenced. In the Hajj 'Umran operational sector, the fighters of Islam fired on enemy personnel and stopped their activities. In the Chuman Mustafa region, they fired on enemy vehicles and killed or wounded at least 15 enemy personnel as well as inflicting some material losses. In the western operational sector, the exchange of heavy weapons fire continued and with its artillery fire our forces stopped all activities of enemy infantry and engineering units.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational sectors, our fighting units fired on enemy positions west of the Arvand Rud and, in addition to disrupting their engineering operations and

the movement of Iraqi vehicles, they destroyed 21 enemy trenches and foxholes.

Yesterday, as the result of heavy long-range enemy fire over Abadan, 14 houses and 17 shops were damaged.

Communique No 1,662

LD111719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,662 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, as on previous days, the battle of the defenders of our Islamic homeland continued in the form of defensive fighting and exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire. On all fronts, while continuing to strengthen their defensive positions and preserving their superiority of firepower, our mighty combatants brought enemy personnel, weapons emplacements, and supply routes under fire; silenced enemy fire; killed or injured several enemy personnel; and disrupted enemy movements and supply operations.

The exchange of fire was more intense at (?Kodu) and 2,519 heights on the Piranshah operational front and the Nowsud sector on the western front.

Enemy losses and casualties during the past 24 hours were:

In the Hajj 'Umran sector, enemy personnel killed or wounded were reported as 35.

In the Panjwin sector, in addition to killing or injuring several enemy personnel, our forces destroyed an enemy ammunition dump and two bulldozers.

In the Abadan operational sector, Gendarmerie personnel destroyed two enemy assembly buildings, several vehicles, and parts of enemy positions and fortifications and killed several enemy personnel. More than 30 houses were damaged yesterday as a result of enemy fire.

Bushehr Commander Visits Khark Island 10 March

GF111514 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The Gendarmerie commander of the Bushehr region yesterday visited Khark Island. According to a report by the Central News Unit, after his arrival there, he and the Khark Island Gendarmerie commander visited with coastal guards and toured their stations.

According to the same report, the Bushehr region Gendarmerie commander, in continuing his visit, met the commander of the joint forces of Khark Island, looked into the military problems of this region, and inspected the island's loading jetties.

Majlis Elections Scheduled for 15 April

LD111406 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The Minister of Interior Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here today that the nation-wide elections for the second term of the Majlis will be held on April 15, 1984.

Speaking in a press conference he added that the candidates should register at the ministry or the related offices in their constituencies during the week beginning March 18. Those whose eligibility has been proved by the headquarters in charge of the elections would have 23 days for their election campaign.

The first Majlis elections were held May 28, 1980 and some 267 representatives were elected fo the four-year term. According to the constitutional law of the country, the total number of the deputies should be 270, based on the number of population.

Prior to the victory of the Feb. 79 Islamic Revolution, there were two Majlis in the country, the National Consultative Assembly and the Senate. Half of the members of the Senate were appointed directly by the former shah. However, under the constitutional law of the Islamic Republic of Iran there is only one Majlis in the country, deputies of which are directly elected by the people.

Interior Minister Comments

LD112128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpts] In an interview this afternoon, Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri referred to the final ratification of the law governing elections by the Majlis: Since the draft law on elections has gone through its final ratification by the Majlis, the Ministry of the Interior has now prepared for all the preliminary stages of the elections and registration of candidates. Those who hold government posts at present but would like to be considered as candidates for the Majlis elections should resign from their posts by 15 March, otherwise their candidacy will be prevented. All candidates all over the country can register either by going to the Interior Ministry directly or by going to the offices in their constituency during office hours from 18 March for 7 days.

Concerning the day of election, the interior minister said: Elections will be held on 15 April 1984, which coincides with the anniversary of the lord of the virtuous, Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him.

Concerning elections in the two provinces of Eastern Azarbayjan and Bushehr, the interior minister said: Votes cast in these two provinces in the elections for the Council of Experts and the Constitution previously were declared void, but this time elections for the Council of Experts and the Majlis will be held simultaneously in these two provinces.

Referring to the time allocated for publicity campaigns for candidates, the interior minister said: Once the competence of

each candidate has been confirmed, the exact period allocated for this purpose will be announced. Those who launch their campaigns before the announcement will be in breach of election laws and will be dealt with according to the law.

The interior minister added: Publicity campaigns through mass media, radio, television, Friday prayer sermons, public places, government departments, and other organizations connected with the government are forbidden for candidates according to the law recently ratified by the Majlis.

Free Voice of Iran: Large New Offensive Rumored

GF112004 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] There is a rumor currently being circulated by sources close to the regime in Tehran that Ayatollah Khomeyni will initiate a very large new attack into Iraqi territory before the start of the Iranian new year [21 March].

The aim of this attack, the exact date for which has not yet been revealed, is to obtain propaganda material about so-called war victories in order to use it in the Majlis elections. The elections of the Majlis of the mullahs are being boycotted by Iranian patriots and factions opposing Khomeyni's regime.

Khomeyni Cancels Appointments 17 Mar-7 Apr

LD121055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] A statement issued by the office of Imam Khomeyni announces that from Saturday, 17 March, until Saturday, 7 April, all Imam Khomeyni's appointments have been canceled because of the Nowruz [Iranian new year]. Here is the statement:

In His exalted name. Because of the arrival of the Nowruz period, Imam Khomeyni's appointments have been canceled from 17 March to 7 April. Needless to say, the appointments made by the dear ones earlier will be postponed to a date after this period.

[Signed] Office of Imam Khomeyni, 12 March

Kuwaiti Newspaper Reports Reza'i Wounded

GF091442 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 8 Mar 84 p 1

[Dispatch from Paris]

[Text] Iranian sources reported in Paris that Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Revolution Guards Corps, was wounded in the latest battles between Iraq and Iran.

These sources said: "Mohsen Reza'i, the one who launched and led the latest military operation, known as the Khaybar operation, was not present at the military meetings last week."